GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:705
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2006
LOANS TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural labourers are being provided bank loans;

(b) if so, the amount of bank loan provided to agricultural labourers during the year 2005; and

(c) the number of agricultural labourers benefited by the said loan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) : Yes, Sir. AgricUltural Labourers are being provided loans by banks for allied activities such as dairy, poultry, sheep/goat rearing and non farm sector activities. It is estimated that 3.3 crore poor families (majority of them are agricultural labourers/landless families) have directly availed the benefits of formal banking system including credit facilities through Self Help Groups(SHGs) Bank Linkage Programme. Banks have extended credit amounting to about Rs.ll,397 crore to about 22.38 lakh SHGs cumulatively as on 31st March, 2006. During the [mandal year 2005-06, 620069 new SHGs and 344502 existing SHGs had availed bank loans to the tune of Rs.4499 crore from the banking system.Besides, Swarozgar Credit Card is extended to agricultural labourers to enable them to take up economic activities under rural non fatm sector. Further, bank credit amounting to Rs.190.84 crore was provided by banks to share croppers and tenant farmers fur purchase of land for agricultural purposes during 2005-06.

The lending to weaker sections (within the priority sector) show figures of loans granted to small and marginal farmers including-agricultural labourers. No separate data is captured in respect of loans to agricultural labourers.